



Atty Dkt No. APF 38.20
PATENT

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December 20, 2001
Date

Henry O. Beyard
Signature

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

CHEN et al.

Serial No.: 09/710,104

Art Unit: 1648

Filing Date: 9 November 2000

Examiner: S. Brown

Title: INDUCTION OF MUCOSAL IMMUNITY BY
VACCINATION VIA THE SKIN ROUTE

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTION/RESTRICTION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to an Office Action in the above-referenced application, mailed 20 June 2001, and having a shortened one month statutory period for response. Accordingly, a five-month extension of time to respond is requested, and the fee therefor accompanies this paper.

RESPONSE

Election of Claims:

The Office has required election of one of the following groups of claims:

- Group I: Claims 1-23, drawn to a method of generating a mucosal immune response, classified in class 514, subclass 44;
- Group II: Claims 24-29, drawn to a particulate vaccine composition, classified in class 424, subclass 184.1; and
- Group III: Claims 30-35, drawn to a method for treating or preventing a disease, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group II, claims 24-29, without traverse. Applicants expressly reserve their right under 35 USC §121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the nonelected subject matter during the pendency of this application.

CONCLUSION

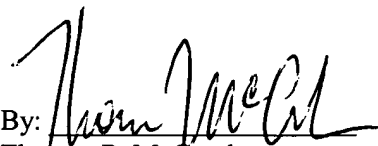
Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as now pending define an invention which complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and which is novel and nonobvious over the art. Accordingly, allowance is believed to be in order and an early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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If the Examiner notes any further matters which she believes could be expedited by a telephone call, she is requested to contact the undersigned at (510) 742-9700, ext. 209.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 20 December 2001

By: 
Thomas P. McCracken
Registration No. 38,548

POWDERJECT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
6511 Dumbarton Circle
Fremont, CA 94555
Telephone: (510) 742-9700, ext. 209
Fax: (510) 742-9720